

Partner Profile: ESPOIR



Photos courtesy of ESPOIR



In Ecuador, an estimated 42% of adult women and 41% of low-income adults lack access to formal financial services.¹ 23% of the population lack access to essential health services, and low-income women are disproportionately excluded.

Fundación para el Desarrollo Integral Espoir (ESPOIR) is an Ecuadorian microfinance institution and a partner within Global Partnership's Women-Centered Finance with Education and Women-Centered Finance with Health initiatives.³

WHO IS SERVED:⁴

ESPOIR currently serves over 49,000 clients, with a focus on female micro-entrepreneurs in rural areas. 71% of its clients are female, 76% live in rural areas,⁴ and 32% live on less than \$5.50 per person, per day.⁵

WHAT IS DELIVERED:

The majority of ESPOIR's clients receive group loans alongside regular

educational workshops covering financial literacy, preventive health practices, and empowerment, among other topics.

ESPOIR also provides access to healthcare through a tailored insurance product and on-site clinics. The health insurance covers not only the clients but primary and certain specialty care for their spouses and dependents. To deliver this offering, ESPOIR partners with a network of doctors and pharmacies in addition to its own clinics in select branch offices.

WHY IT IS IMPACTFUL:

Access to working capital loans and related education enables ESPOIR's

clients to make more informed decisions and invest in income-generating activities, resulting in improved economic resilience and food security for their households.

A 2019 study⁶ of ESPOIR clients found that 94% of respondents reported improvement in their quality of life, 91% reported increased income, and 97% reported an increased ability to plan their finances. With access to health information and services, clients can adopt healthier behaviors, practice prevention, and receive timely and appropriate treatment – enabling improved household health.

1. "The Global Findex Database," The World Bank, 2021, <https://globalfindex.worldbank.org/>.
2. "Primary Health Care on the Road to Universal Health Coverage – 2019 Monitoring Report," World Health Organization, 2019, pg. 41. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240004276>.
3. ESPOIR was a current borrower of Global Partnerships Impact-First Growth Fund, LLC, Global Partnerships Social Investment Fund 5.0, LLC, and Global Partnerships Social Investment Fund 6.0, LLC as of September 30, 2022.
4. Data as of September 30, 2022, as reported by ESPOIR.
5. Based on responses from 281 ESPOIR group loan clients in a 2019 study by 60 Decibels, Inc.
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